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An Update On Current Treatment Strategies for Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia

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Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) such as agitation, aggressive behaviour, repetitive vocalizations, apathy, etc. are a frequent challenge in the care for patients with dementia. BPSD are furthermore associated with individual suffering, reduced quality of life and caregiver burden. This talk will provide an update on current pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment strategies for BPSD on the basis of the relevant guidelines and a review of the current literature. For pharmacological treatment, the focus has recently shifted from antipsychotics to antidepressants due to their more favourable risk/benefit profile. Treatment algorithms that include behavioural diagnostics and both pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions will be presented as a tool to guide clinical practice.